NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
April 25, 1997

SKELETONS IN YOUR CLOSET?

This summer's Dino Dig on the north terrace will include an activity in which visitors examine a variety of medium to large bones. John Wagner and Peter Laraba present this opportunity for you to empty your "closets" of any unwanted bones. Mixed, disarticulated we'll take them all. Put your odd ossifications to a good cause, but don't expect them back. We'll dispose of them properly. Questions? Contact **Peter Laraba** (x587) or **John Wagner** (x395) in the Department of Education.

WAYFARERS' CLUB GOES "BEHIND-THE-SCENES"

On April 15, President **John McCarter** hosted the Wayfarers' Club. (McCarter, President Emeritus **Sandy Boyd,** and **Leo Mullin,** former Chair of the Field Museum Board of Trustees, are members.)

To begin the evening, the Wayfarers' gathered in the Library Reading Room where Librarian **Ben Williams** pointed out the highlights of the Rare Book Room. Next, they toured "behind-the-scenes" and had the opportunity to meet several of The Field Museum's scientists and learn about their research. Scientific staff present at the event included:

Curator **Lance Grande** (Geology): "Interpreting the Earth's History with Fossil Fishes"

Assistant Curators **Shannon Hackett** and **John Bates** (Zoology, Birds): "Modern Research in Birds: An Introduction to the Collections"

Associate Curator **Greg Mueller** and Associate **Betty Strack** (Botany): "The Crucial Role of Fungi in Forest Health"

Associate Curator **Chip Stanish** (Anthropology): "Treasures from the Collections: Africa, Oceania, and Asia"

Special thanks to **Lori Breslauer** (Academic Affairs), **Sarah Highstone** (Development), **Holly Lundberg** (Conservation Facilities), **Sue Hamnik** (Botany), **Adam Shapiro** (Development), and **Patti Stratton** (Development) who assisted with the event.

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

NEW GUINEA RESEARCH PROGRAM (NGRP) NEWS

Curator **John Terrell** (Anthropology) was in Nashville during the first week of April attending the annual meetings of the Society

for American Archaeology (SAA). He gave an invited paper on "Colonization at Different Geographic Scales and in Varying Cultural Contexts" which was organized by Cynthia Klink (U.C. Santa Barbara). The SAA meetings this year were held at the Orlyand convention Center, which Terrell says is like a large Brookfield Zoo "animal habitat" (without birds or other signs of life) especially designed for Homo sapiens. While at the SAA meetings, Terrell was also recruiting colleagues for a 1998 symposium and book on "The History of Resource Management and Social Change in Holocene Coastal Environments." On April 10, Terrell gave an informal brown-bag lecture to the Anthropology Department on his New Guinea work last year. The bioanthropologist **Ann Stodder** (Research Associate, Anthropology) has begun analysis in the A. B. Lewis Laboratory of the human remains found last October at Aitape on the Sepik Coast of Papua New Guinea. Visitors to NGRP and the Department of Anthropology in the last two weeks have included Sidney and June Mead (New Zealand); Research Associate **Robin Torrence** (Anthropology and The Australian National Museum, Sydney); and H. R. H. Prince Tupouto'a of the Kingdom of Tonga.

THE A. WATSON ARMOUR III SPRING SYMPOSIUM AT THE FIELD MUSEUM

"Biological Invasions: Consequences and Ecological Restoration"

On Saturday, April 12, 1997, The Field Museum presented the A. Watson Armour III Spring Symposium, "Biological Invasions: Consequences and Ecological Restoration." More than 625 international and local scholars, environmental biologists, conservationists, and concerned citizens gathered to discuss the impact and consequences of invasive species -- plants and animals that invade (or colonize) a new ecosystem. Freed from predators, diseases and other factors that keep them in check in their original habitats, some of these biological invaders wreak massive ecological and financial havoc and are extremely difficult to control. The following topics were presented for discussion:

Mick Clout - University of Aukland, New Zealand - Biological invasions and species survival

Carla d'Antonio - University of California at Berkeley - Biological invasions as global environmental change

Joachim Kadereit - University of Mainz, Germany - The evolution of plant invaders

Lawrence Keeley - University of Illinois at Chicago - The biological consequences of human migrations in antiquity

Alaka Wali - The Field Museum - Invaders of the forests: implications of large-scale human colonization in lowland Latin American forests

Ralph Thornton - Forest Preserve District of Cook County - Mountains of ice, oceans of grass: the relationship between geology and ecology

Bruce Patterson - The Field Museum & Kate Lyons - Modern mammal assemblages from the Neotropics: legacies of the Great American Biotic Interchange

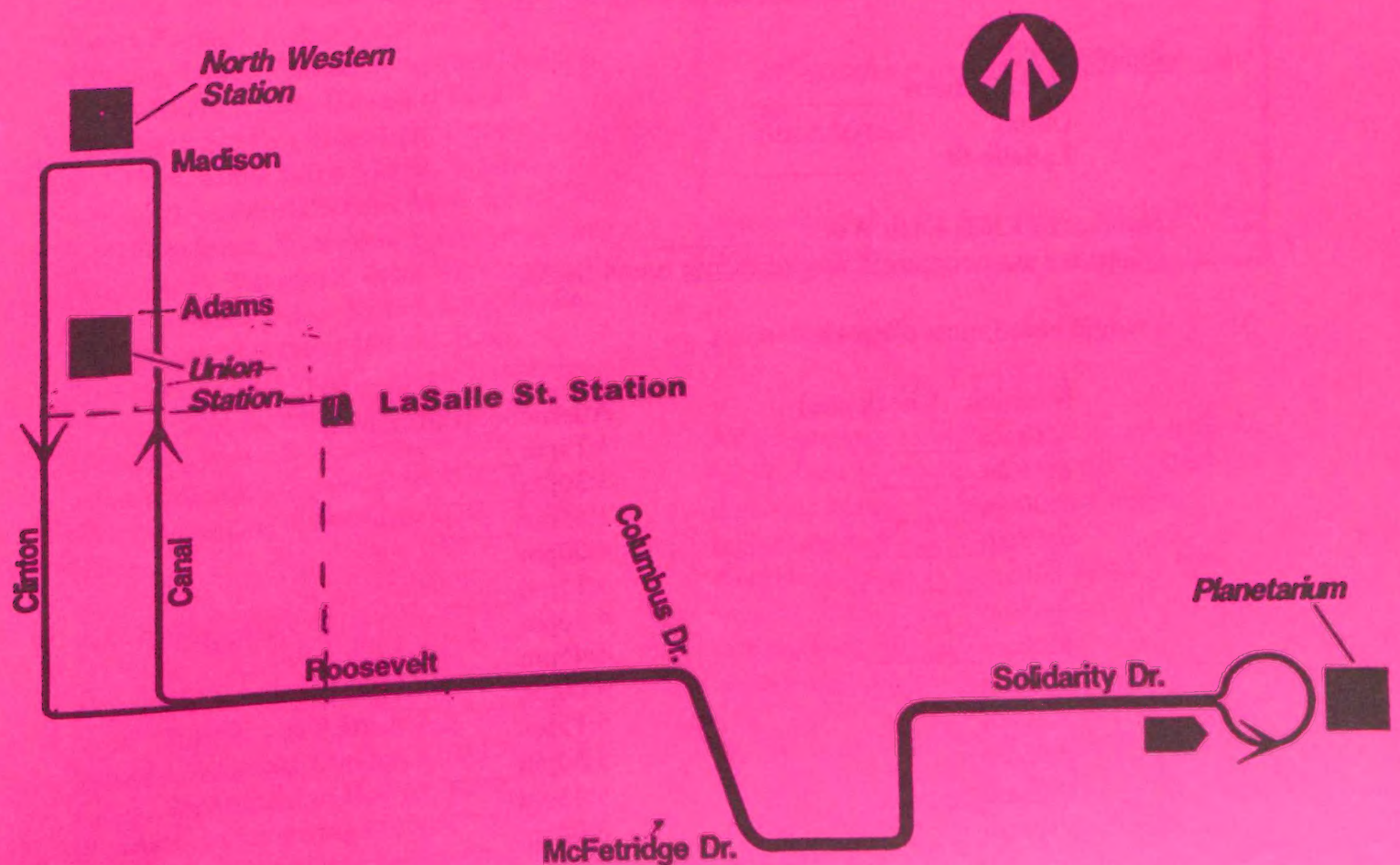
Scott Robinson - Illinois Natural History Survey - Habitat restoration and the problem of Cowbird parasitism

Gerould Wilhelm - Conservation Design Forum, Inc. - The weed and its place in the restored landscape

Ronald Panzer - Northeastern Illinois University - Insect conservation within the biologically polluted Chicago area

Proposed Weekday Rush Hour Express Service Between North Western and Union Stations and the Grant Park Museum Campus

Proposed times: 6:30 - 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.



TRANSPORTATION SURVEY FOR METRA COMMUTERS

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether there is sufficient interest in a bus route for Metra commuters from the Northwestern and Union Stations (LaSalle Street Station option included). We are considering obtaining the service either from the C.T.A. or from a private provider. The service will be provided during morning and afternoon rush hours at 15 or 30 minute intervals.

Please indicate in the survey below your expected station of origination, preferred times, and the number of rides per week on which you expect to use this service. Assume for purposes of this survey that the cost will be the same whether the service is provided by the C.T.A. or a private provider, and that this service will take approximately 15 minutes from the Northwestern Station to the entrance of the Museum Campus. The suggested shuttle route is attached.

FOR METRA RIDERS ONLY

1. Station Used:
   - Northwestern _____
   - Union _____
   - LaSalle St. _____

2. Number of Rides Each Week_____
   (Note: we are counting 1 way rides, not round-trips)

3. I would board most often at:

Morning: (Check one)	Afternoon: (Check one)
6:30am_____	3:15pm_____
6:45am_____	3:30pm_____
7:00am_____	3:45pm_____
7:15am_____	4:00pm_____
7:30am_____	4:15pm_____
7:45am_____	4:30pm_____
8:00am_____	4:45pm_____
8:15am_____	5:00pm_____
8:30am_____	5:15pm_____
8:45am_____	5:30pm_____
9:00am_____	5:45pm_____
9:15am_____	6:00pm_____

Please return to Pat Phillips at the Field by April 28, 1997.

landscape

Ellen Marsden - University of Vermont - Aquatic invaders and ecosystem change in the Great Lakes

Peter Crane, Charles Stanish, Gregory Mueller, and **Shannon Hackett** also participated as moderators.

As with any event of this size, success is accomplished only with the close cooperation of many people and departments. Many thanks to all of those who went the extra mile to contribute to this event:

Carol Konieczny, Laurie Sanders, Robert Harris, Debbie Kvapil, Robert Cazy, Rayfield Drake, Tim Tryba, Karen Olinsky, Ed Czerwin, Carolyn Moon, Anita Purnell, Susan Vandenbosch, John Ososky, Laura Panko, Jennifer Crodian, Keith Barker, Lisa Grismer, Lisa Bergwall, Susana Magallon, Caryn Lowther, Mary Ellen Ward, Sophie Twichell, Robin O'Keefe, Leonore Levit, Lori Breslauer, Towanda Simmons, Mary Feay, Hedy Turnbull, John Turnbull, Gari Hawkins, Alice Rubio, Link Olson, Amy Driskell, Selena Ismael, Kim Andrews, Phred Wood, Mark Baldridge, Carolyn Klyce, Amy Sytula, Ursula Urtzman, Araceli Acavedo, Matthew Kosnik, Rachel Collin, Ross Chisholm, Cindy Vasquez, Katie Green, and Paul Baker.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday, April 22, 1997 was delivered by **Francois Lutzoni,** Assistant Curator, Lichen-forming Fungi, Department of Botany, Field Museum. In reviewing the basic attributes of lichens, a mutualistic association between fungi, algae and cyanobacteria, Francois noted 98% of the fungi involved are ascomycetes and only 2% are basidiomycetes. He discussed problems in elucidating the question of a single or multiple origin of lichenization of ascomycetes. He detailed research on various aspects of lichenized basidiomycetes and related taxa using both morphological and molecular data sets. His data strongly support two independent origins of basidiomycete lichenization. Mutualistic species of *Omphalina* evidenced a faster substitution rate for nuclear DNA as well as a higher mutation rate of TT dimer disruption than non-mutualistic species of *Omphalina.*

Coming soon --

Museum-wide Meetings on Parking!

See next week's *Natural News* for details on time and place.

Editor's note:

MEA CULPA

All photographs have a photographer and -- in the Field Museum at least -- a negative number. I know this, but forgot when I included the photo of **Diane White** and **Beverly Gilliam** in last week's issue. I am so sorry. Many thanks -- though belated -- to **Kimberly Mazanek** for the lovely photograph, Neg.# GN88150.4

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon.

Summer Admission Timeline

Many changes relating to The Field Museum admissions will be taking place during the next few months. Below is a timeline to help you sort through all these changes. If you need more information please don't hesitate to contact the Visitor Services Department at Ext. 386.

Effective May 1st

- Family admission rate will be dropped.
- "Life Over Time" will be a free exhibit.
- Adult Basic admission rate will increase to $7.00.
- Child, Student and Senior Basic admission rate will increase to $4.00.
- Wednesday will continue to be a free day.

Effective May 24th

- All of the above applies.
- Dinosaur Families and Dino Dig open.
- Memberships will increase $5.00 in each category.
  - Individual $40.00
  - Family $50.00
  - Student & Senior $30.00
- Admission Pricing shown below will be in effect.

	Choice 1	Choice 2		Choice 3
	Basic Admission	Basic Admission + Dinosaur Families	Basic Admission + Dino Dig	Basic Admission + Dinosaur Families & Dino Dig
Adults	$7.00	$10.00	$9.00	$11.00
Children Students Senior Citizens	$4.00	$6.00	$5.00	$6.50
Members	Free	$1.00	Free	$1.00

- Dino Dig tickets can be purchased separately without Basic Admission.
  - Adults - $2.00
  - Children, Students, Senior Citizens - $1.00

Effective July 3rd

- All of the above applies
- Thursday Museum hours will be extended from July 3rd through August 28th with the exception of July 10th due to a Special Event, new hours will be from 9:00am-8:00pm.
- Free Day guidelines will be in effect on Thursdays from 5:00pm - 8:00pm.

Effective September 1st

- Last day for Dinosaur Families is September 1st.
- Last day for Dino Dig is September 1st but an extension is possible.